

Coalition Report 2008

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

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Groundbreaking Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking in Women Held in Benin City, Nigeria



IROKO Director Esohe Aghatise

Since the mid-1980s, substantial numbers of women and girls from Nigeria have been trafficked into Europe, the Middle East, North America and other countries around the world. A majority of these victims are from the Nigerian state of Edo. For instance, it is estimated that over 60% of women trafficked for sexual exploitation in Italy are Nigerian, and over 80% of the trafficked Nigerian women are from the Edo ethnic group.

CATW affiliate organization, IROKO, in collaboration with the Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and

the Coalition against Trafficking in Women, organized the First International Conference on Human Trafficking and Prostitution in Nigeria, in Benin City, Edo State, on March 26th and 27th 2007.

The two-day conference featured speakers from a number of international agencies and national and state organizations, speaking on subjects ranging from laws and policies on prostitution and trafficking in human beings, to actions on the protection of, assistance to and rehabilitation of victims of prostitution and human trafficking.



Carol Ndaguba, Executive Secretary of NAPTIP (right)

The conference was formally opened by the then Executive Governor of Edo State, Chief Lucky Igbinedion, and the Executive Secretary of the NAPTIP, Carol Ndaguba, gave the welcoming address. Many representatives of Nigerian government authorities were present at the conference, such as the Minister for Women's Affairs, the Federal Minister of Justice, the President of the House of Representatives Commission on Women's Affairs, the 36 Commissioners for Women's Affairs, the Executive Director of the National Human Rights Commission, the Chief Prosecutor of the Federation, the Chief Judge of Edo State, Edo State Judges, a representative of the Chief Judge of the Federation, representatives from the Nigeria Police, and a representative of the Governor of Edo State. Members of Nigerian civil society also attended the conference, including representatives of the Oba of Benin, the Nigerian Lawyers' Association, the Market Women's Organization of Edo State, the Idia Renaissance Organization of Benin City, and several women's religious congregations. Additionally, foreign and diplomatic authorities were present.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Gunilla Ekberg, who represented CATW. In her speech, Gunilla focused on the development of international agreements that recognize prostitution and trafficking in human beings as being incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and as being forms of violence against women and girls. She analyzed and refuted the most common arguments used by those who support measures to legalize the sex industry, and identified the root factors, including the demand, that make women vulnerable to being exploited through prostitution. She also spoke about the connection between pornography and prostitution, and ended by proposing different measures that should be implemented in order to effectively prevent and combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

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Groundbreaking Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking in Women Held in Benin City, Nigeria

Esohe Aghatise of IROKO Onlus also gave a rousing speech on the links between prostitution and trafficking in human beings and described how the local prostitution industry fuels the international sexual exploitation of women. In her speech, she encouraged the participants to organize against the traffickers locally, to focus on discouraging the demand for women and girls locally and internationally, and to support and give assistance to those women and girls who return to Edo State after having been trafficked into other countries.

On the second day of the conference, participants actively assisted in several workshops on subjects such as the concepts of consent and demand in the Palermo Protocol, victim protection and rehabilitation, as well as on the lack of gender equality in Nigeria as a cause of trafficking.

At the end of the conference, the participants agreed on several conference conclusions in which they committed to counteract prostitution and trafficking in human beings as forms of violence against women and to ensure that all anti-trafficking measures should be consistent with international human rights principles and a gender equality perspective. The participants also agreed to implement activities that support and protect victims of prostitution and human trafficking, and recognized that the social, legal and economic conditions of women and girls in Nigeria must be alleviated to minimize their vulnerability to traffickers. Moreover, the participants decided to develop and implement various measures that discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking, as specified in Article 9.5 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Finally, it was agreed to meet together again in the year of 2008 for a second international conference on human trafficking and prostitution in Benin City to continue discussion, collaboration and the sharing of information on the work that has taken place during the interim period. Due to the sensitive political situation in Edo State, a firm date for the 2008 conference has not yet been set.



Co-Executive Director
Gunilla S. Ekberg

Two New Co-Executive Directors Lead CATW from Brussels and New York

In 2007, two new co-executive directors, Norma Ramos and Gunilla S. Ekberg, took over leadership of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. Norma Ramos is working from an office in New York, USA, and Gunilla S. Ekberg is working from the CATW international secretariat in Brussels, Belgium.

Both co-executive directors came to CATW with a 25 year involvement in working in women's rights. Norma Ramos, who assumed her duties in January, 2007, has been a lifelong public interest attorney and advocate for ending all forms of violence against women. She is also a co-founder of New York City's environmental justice movement. She is the former executive director of the Rainforest Foundation in New York City.

Gunilla S. Ekberg began her position in July, 2007. Ekberg is a Swedish-Canadian lawyer and international expert on human rights, gender equality and violence against women. For five years, she served as the Senior Advisor on prostitution and trafficking in human beings to the Swedish government. In this capacity, she was responsible for developing public and legislative policy and for organizing several regional and national campaigns, including the Nordic-Baltic Campaign Against Trafficking in 2002. She also helped create public programs to highlight Sweden's progressive legislation decriminalizing women in prostitution and penalizing the men who buy women for "sexual services."

Former co-executive directors, Janice Raymond and Dorchen Leidholdt, will continue working with CATW as members of its board.

Janice Raymond Recognized by Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust with International Woman Award

On May 19, 2007, the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust, an organization in the UK which promotes policies and practices that tackle the root causes of male violence against women and children, hosted its second Awards Ceremony to acknowledge women who have played a significant role in the voluntary sector to end all forms of violence against women and children.

Former Co-Executive Director and current Board Member of CATW, Dr. Janice Raymond, received the 2007 International Woman Award. This Award was granted in recognition of her work in the forefront of the campaign to recognize prostitution as a form of violence against women and as one of the worst forms of gender inequality.



International Woman of the Year 2007 Award presented by the Zero Tolerance Trust on May 19, 2007. Picture: presentation of award to Janice Raymond by the Right Honourable Elish Angiolini QC, the first woman to be appointed to the position of Lord Advocate of Scotland; and a representative from the Scottish Women's Convention who sponsored the award.

A Note from Co-Executive Directors, Norma Ramos and Gunilla Ekberg

To come on board after Janice Raymond and Dorchen Leidholdt is not only an honor; it is a great responsibility. We feel a special duty to ensure that what they have built will continue to grow and be strengthened. Jan and Dorchen have provided sustained, visionary, and principled leadership. CATW is indeed fortunate that they will continue their leadership role of the organization as members of our Board of Directors. We would like to thank these two great women, along with the other members of CATW's Board, our affiliates and volunteers around the world, for making CATW the world's most influential and uncompromising feminist abolitionist organization. A special thank you to our supporters who make our work possible. We look forward to a new era of accomplishments as we all work together to realize CATW's vision of a world in which prostitution and trafficking in women and children are seen as incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and the equal rights of women and men.

Co-Executive Director Norma Ramos

First let me say, almost a full year into my directorship, how honored I am to be part of the leadership of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women at this pivotal juncture in our history.

As some of you know, I was involved at the inception of CATW in 1988 and remember vividly the excitement of that first groundbreaking conference on trafficking in women, which honed our thinking and strategy. The Coalition represents and continues decades of advocacy by feminist and human rights pioneers who, often at great personal cost, challenged the global sex industry—among them Coalition leaders, some of whom are no longer with us, Yayori Matsui, Raquel Tiglaio, and Zoraida Rodriguez Ramirez.

CATW accomplished a great deal in 2007. This report highlights our achievements throughout the world. For instance, we stepped up our efforts against legal, political and social conditions that encourage trafficking in Europe, and achieved a victory against legalized prostitution in Bulgaria. We also supported our new affiliate in Ghana, the Enslavement Prevention Alliance West Africa, which is working not only to combat existing trafficking and sexual exploitation but to prevent what is widely expected to be a dramatic increase in trafficking when Ghana hosts the 2008 Cup of African Nations. Further, significant progress has been made in our quest to build and formalize an abolitionist network in North America. We have recently added four new organizations to our growing list, and will continue to expand this network in 2008.

In the United States, we continued our leadership role in fighting for strong anti-trafficking legislation. We had a tremendous victory in the State of New York. As a result of our efforts in coalition with key allies, the New York State Legislature passed what is now considered the nation's strongest anti-trafficking law. This law went into effect November 1st, 2007 and, in addition to strong provisions against sex and labor trafficking and sex tourism, raises the penalties against the prostitution buyers, who create the demand for sex trafficking. Understanding that our work to end sex trafficking in New York State has just begun, we now are working to ensure strong enforcement of the law.

This past year, CATW also prioritized strengthening the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the federal anti-trafficking law in the US. We advocated for a revised definition of the criminal offense of sex trafficking to better ensure that traffickers are prosecuted and held accountable for their crimes. The House of Representatives recently passed a bill with strengthened criminal provisions. In the coming year, we will work further to advocate for the bill's passage in the Senate.

CATW is an extraordinary organization led by an extraordinary team of feminist human rights advocates. In the year ahead, I look forward to a new era of growth and accomplishment as we work to realize our vision of a world in which human trafficking and all forms of sexual exploitation no longer exist.

Co-Executive Director Gunilla S. Ekberg

After working in the women's movement for freedom from male violence for over 30 years, it is with great enthusiasm that I join the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and our partners, new and old, in fighting to end sexual exploitation. As a leading feminist international anti-trafficking organization, we have achieved many victories in our work against trafficking and sexual exploitation. I am delighted to highlight some of our achievements in 2007.

Since I started my position in July 2007, the Coalition opened an international secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. The international focus of our office is a priority. Our location not only facilitates our work involving the European Union institutions, the Council of Europe, the United Nations in Geneva and Vienna, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, but it also brings us closer to our affiliates in Africa and the Middle East.

This past year, the Coalition continued its emphasis on preventing prostitution and trafficking in women and girls by promoting comprehensive legal and policy reform that includes measures to curb the demand. In the state of Western Australia, our efforts involved advocating against legislation that would legalize brothels, thereby increasing demand for women and girls for prostitution purposes. In Norway and the United Kingdom, including in Scotland, where moves toward the Swedish model are seriously being considered, we have educated members of the government and public alike about the achievements attained in Sweden and the importance of recognizing prostitution as a form of male violence against women.

We have similarly furthered our goal to educate both governmental and non-governmental officials about appropriate measures to protect and assist victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, as required under international law. While participating in a national conference in Ireland as well as co-organizing a regional conference in the Middle East, we stressed the importance of addressing the demand and the wide-ranging needs of victims as integral parts of an effective anti-trafficking strategy.

We look forward to expanding our work in Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Africa, Europe and North America, and finding new partners in regions such as the Middle East. As we begin to celebrate our 20th year combating the trafficking in women and girls and all related forms of sexual exploitation, we will strengthen our current collaborations while building new relationships and meeting new challenges throughout the world.

Last, but not least, I would like to give special thanks to those who dedicated their time and energy to publishing this Report. Adrienne Anifant, Barbara Kryszko and Amanda Norejko assisted with drafting and editing articles on top of their already demanding schedules. Dani Chesson used her skills at graphic design to pull everything together. The Coalition thanks them as well as all its other volunteers around the world, in helping to make our work such a success.


CATW in Action


CATW and NCA Successfully Organize Consultation on Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Kuwait

Increasingly, the prostitution and trafficking in women and girls for sexual purposes takes place in the countries of the Middle East. Some countries have become key destination countries for organized crime networks specializing in the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. Due to political instability, armed conflict and war, particularly in Iraq, many women and children leave conflict-afflicted areas in search of economic stability, protection and security in non-conflict areas nationally or in neighbouring countries.

The latest figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (March 2007) show that 2.3 million Iraqis are internally displaced, and more than 2 million Iraqis, many of them women and children, have left Iraq in search of a safe haven, mostly in Jordan and Syria. For the past three years, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has been working on capacity building with women in southern Iraq, specifically addressing their human and civil rights. It has become increasingly obvious that many of the displaced women and girls are victims of rape, of domestic violence and are sexually exploited. There is also evidence that displaced Iraqi women are drawn into prostitution as a result of living in poverty, and the demand by men in destination countries. United Nations reports show that a number of young women and girls are disappearing in Iraq, most likely victims of murder or of trafficking for sexual purposes.¹

In order to address these issues, NCA, in collaboration with CATW, organized the first ever consultation on the sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking in women and girls in the Middle East, with a focus on Iraq, in December, 2007, in Kuwait. Jan Kristensen, NCA Country Representative for Iraq, welcomed the participants to the consultation. Long-term CATW affiliate Rachel Eapen Paul, Program Manager for NCA's Capacity Building, Democracy and Human Rights program for Iraq, and who took the initiative to the consultation, introduced the consultation objectives and gave a brief background description.

CATW Co-Executive Director Gunilla S. Ekberg, gave the keynote presentation on the global trafficking in women and girls for sexual purposes, focusing on various preventative and legal measures being implemented worldwide to address the issue. A regional and international panel presented different relevant aspects of this issue from their national perspectives.

During group discussions, the participants were given the opportunity to discuss what women can do in their families and communities to prevent women and girls from ending up in prostitution, and to present ideas for how to assist those women who are used in prostitution and/or are victims of trafficking. One group discussed what men can do at a personal and community level to prevent the exploitation of women and girls in the sex industry. Considering the difficult political situations in their countries, many participants were particularly involved in finding effective ways to implement activities against violence and prostitution in their home areas.

The participants at the consultation concluded that the prostitution and trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation are important and relevant issues that must be dealt with urgently in their local communities and on a political level. It was also decided to create a loose network of groups and individuals in the region to address the violence against women and girls including prostitution and trafficking in human beings. NCA and CATW will organize a follow-up meeting with representatives from more countries in the region in early 2008 in order to continue the joint efforts and find a way forward.

¹ The Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) has documented that of the 4000 women who have disappeared since March 2003, 20% are below 18 years of age.

CATW PLAYS KEY ROLE IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING ROUNDTABLE IN IRELAND

In late 2007, the government of Ireland announced a number of actions to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including the introduction of a Human Trafficking Criminal Law Bill, and the development of a national anti-trafficking action plan. The Immigration Council of Ireland (ICI) invited CATW Co-Executive Director Gunilla S. Ekberg as the keynote speaker to a roundtable discussion focused on legal and policy reform for victims of trafficking on November 29, 2007, in Dublin, Ireland. The roundtable was primarily organized to explore what elements should be included in a national action plan to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking. There was also discussion on how to implement legislative reform and how Ireland could meet its international obligations regarding trafficking in human beings.

In her presentation entitled "Developing a Comprehensive National Action Program to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings - the International Experience," Gunilla S. Ekberg spoke about the legal and policy principles that should inform a comprehensive national program, including principles of gender equality and non-discrimination. She addressed the centrality of preventative measures, including laws and policies to counteract the demand, to ensure that women and girls do not fall victim to prostitution and trafficking, and to implement international development and aid measures that ameliorate women's conditions in countries of origin. Finally, she discussed the key elements necessary for comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, and how to implement measures to protect and assist women and girls who are victims of trafficking for sexual purposes.

Other speakers at the roundtable discussion included Grainne Healy, from the European Women's Lobby, who spoke about the Nordic Baltic Pilot Project on Safe Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation, Siobhan O'Donoghue, from the Irish Migrants Rights Centre, who talked about trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation, and Catherine Cosgrave, from the ICI, who analyzed the recent anti-trafficking bill and discussed the current legal situation on trafficking in human beings in Ireland.

CATW Experts Invited to Give Input on United Kingdom Strategy to Curb Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2004, the Home Office of the United Kingdom presented a consultation paper on prostitution, "Paying the Price," which was to be a starting point for the development of a coherent strategy to deal with prostitution and its consequences for individuals and communities in the UK. The paper analyzed different aspects of prostitution, including the current legal framework, victim support and protection measures, links with other serious crime, and how to respond to the demand. The government carried out consultations and then released "The Coordinated Prostitution Strategy," in January 2006, which provides a framework for communities to tackle street prostitution and all forms of commercial sexual exploitation through implementing preventative measures, tackling the demand, developing exit programs for those who are used in prostitution, and ensuring that the perpetrators are prosecuted. This strategy will be evaluated in 2008. In 2007, the UK government also released an "Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking."

The national debate concerning UK prostitution legislation and policies, especially whether or not to criminalize the purchase of sex has been going on for quite some time. The debate came to a head in the fall of 2006, when five prostituted women were found murdered in and around the city of Ipswich. The trial of the presumed murderer, a man who is well-known for buying and exploiting women in prostitution, will start in January 2008.

In a series of continuing meetings being held in Westminster on UK prostitution legislation, Janice Raymond, CATW Board Member, Ann Hamilton, General Manager of the Glasgow City Council's Community and Safety Services, and Julie Bindel, representative from the Poppy Project, a service organization for prostituted and trafficked women in London, met with UK authorities on December 6, 2007. Vera Baird, UK Solicitor General, chaired the meeting, which was also attended by Members of Parliament, representatives from the Home Office and staff from the various part of the government.

At the meeting, Janice Raymond summarized the dismal consequences of legalization and regulation of prostitution and reiterated the remarkable effects of the Swedish law on reducing trafficking, aiding women to choose alternatives to prostitution and challenging partisan portrayals of it by the pro-prostitution lobby. Ann Hamilton spoke about the Glasgow City Council's policy on prostitution, one aspect of which is to object officially to the licensing applications for lap dancing clubs. Glasgow has not engaged in these battles by diverting funds from exit programs for women, but has put serious resources into a coordinated exit program for women through its Routes Out Partnership. Julie Bindel spoke about the UK situation and about her own firsthand experience of witnessing the harmful consequences of legalization of prostitution in the Netherlands.

Government authorities asked many questions, keen to prepare themselves against arguments that supported legalization and that challenged the need for any laws against the demand. UK representatives will visit Sweden in the near future to see firsthand the results of the law against the male demand for prostitution.

To further the discussion on what legal and policy measures best ensure a comprehensive national strategy to prevent and combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings, Labour Member of Parliament (MP) and former Minister in the UK Home Office, Fiona Mactaggart, invited CATW Co-Executive Director Gunilla S. Ekberg to speak at a hearing on November 28, 2007 about how prostitution and trafficking in human beings have been tackled in Sweden.

In her talk, Ekberg spoke about the political vision and principles of gender equality and non-discrimination that underlie the Swedish model, and the importance of making the prevention and combat of prostitution and trafficking in human beings a political priority. She described the effects of the criminal provision that, since 1999, makes it a crime to purchase a sexual service, and provided factual evidence to refute claims spread by those who oppose such a measure.

Present at the hearing, which took place in the UK Parliament, were a number of MP's, as well as many activists representing different groups and organizations - a few loudly promoting the complete decriminalization of the sex industry as a solution - whereas the majority of the more than 70 individuals present firmly supported an understanding of prostitution as male violence and harmful to those women and girls who are exploited.

CATW Spotlights the Harms of Prostitution in Western Australia's Debate on Legalizing Brothels

In 2007, the Western Australian government released details about its plans to legalize a part of the sex industry. Specifically, Western Australian Attorney General Jim McGinty introduced legislation to decriminalize and regulate brothels in the state parliament in late August. Although prostitution itself had not been prohibited in Western Australia at the time this legislation was introduced, it had been illegal to manage a brothel or to live off the earnings of prostitution.

In the midst of the debate following the introduction of this legislation, CATW's Co-Executive Director, Gunilla S. Ekberg, was invited to Australia by a coalition of diverse civil society organizations and individuals.

Ms. Ekberg spoke at numerous events during her visit from 18 to 23 September, 2007, as an international expert regarding sex trafficking and prostitution. She is particularly knowledgeable about the Swedish approach, in which prostitution buyers are penalized and prostituted women and children are seen as survivors of male violence against women.

Ms. Ekberg had a number of meetings with various government and party officials, including a meeting with Attorney General McGinty who is the bill's creator. She also met with the shadow minister for women's interests, representatives of the Labour Party, the Green Party and the Liberal Party, the latter of which decided to take a stand against this bill.

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●●●●● CATW in Action ●●●●●

CATW Advocates for Stronger Federal Anti-Trafficking Legislation and Policy in the United States

This past year the federal anti-trafficking legislation in the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), was due for reauthorization. Seven years after its passage, we have learned much about its strengths and weaknesses, among the latter is the enormous obstacle that the requirement of proving force, fraud, or coercion has placed on federal prosecutors. This proof requirement has also burdened and endangered victims.

Strengthening this legislation became one of CATW's top priorities for a host of reasons, not the least of which is that this federal law is used as a model around the world. CATW members spent a good part of 2007 co-leading a broad coalition to strengthen this key legislation. These advocacy efforts included testimony before the House Judiciary Committee.

By all accounts, we succeeded in the House of Representatives beyond anyone's expectations. This fall, the House passed a bill that contains significantly strengthened criminal provisions, including a new crime of sex trafficking that closes the "force, fraud, or coercion" loophole. If the House's reauthorization bill passes the Senate, the TVPA will become not only a formidable prosecutorial instrument against human trafficking in the United States, but an exemplary model for other jurisdictions.

CATW also co-led an effort to exert pressure on the U.S. Attorney General to strengthen the Justice Department's efforts against human trafficking. Together with a broad-based coalition, CATW secured one hundred signatures of leading organizations and individuals (many of whom had never lent support to an anti-trafficking initiative before) for a letter that was sent to the newly named Attorney General.

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CATW Spotlights the Harms of Prostitution in Western Australia's Debate on Legalizing Brothels

Ms. Ekberg also met with the Deputy Police Commissioner, Head Detective and Police Secretary of the Western Australia Police. She spoke at a public meeting in Fremantle, attended by approximately 350 people addressing the realities of prostitution and the global sex industry. Additionally, she lectured on these issues at Edith Cowan University.

Even before Ms. Ekberg's arrival in Australia, news of the Swedish model was spreading throughout the state government and the local media. When Ms. Ekberg was in Western Australia, media interest surrounding the issue and her visit continued. She was interviewed by various local and national Australian print, radio and television media, thus educating many more members of the public about the issue. As a result of heightened attention on the harmful effects of the legislation to decriminalize brothels in Western Australia, as well as the benefits of focusing on the demand to control the sex industry, the legislative proposal was temporarily withdrawn by the Attorney General. Later, Australian Labour Party (ALP) member, Shelley Archer, announced that she opposed the Bill, and resigned from the ALP, effectively defeating the Bill at this time.

TARA Conference, Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow City Council has long been in the forefront in Scotland, as well as in the UK, when it comes to the development of positive measures to prevent and combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings. Glasgow recognizes prostitution as male violence and as one form of commercial sexual exploitation, has a zero tolerance policy towards prostitution, and requires all staff members to adhere to and promote this policy. In 2003, the Glasgow City Council in partnership with Strathclyde Police and other agencies started a project, called the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA). TARA has as its objectives to share information about trafficking in human beings, provide support and assistance to women victims, address the demand, and to influence national strategies. On December 5, 2007, the Glasgow Inter-Agency Working Group on Trafficking organized a TARA conference on "Prostitution, Trafficking and Demand: Making the Links."

Janice Raymond, former Co-Executive Director of CATW, gave the opening address at the TARA conference, speaking on "Prostitution and Trafficking: A Global Overview." Emphasizing that trafficking is globalized prostitution, she noted that originally the connections between trafficking and prostitution were unassailable until the sex industry and the "sex work" proponents attacked and separated the two. Countries such as the Netherlands and Germany that have legalized prostitution, removed laws against pimping, and virtually live off the proceeds from women in prostitution have an enormous investment in the sex industry. She noted that NGOs in Germany report that because of the legalized situation, they receive very few referrals and have much less access to victims of trafficking because the harm to women is invisible. In contrast, Raymond praised the Glasgow policy on prostitution, stating what a difference it makes when the system of prostitution and the sex industry that supports it is contested by government policy - in Glasgow's case, a municipal government policy that clearly views prostitution and related sexually exploitative activities as violence against women.

Gunilla S. Ekberg, Co-Executive Director of CATW, spoke on the Swedish model to prevent and combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on the short-term and long-term direct and normative effects of the nine-year-old legislation that prohibits the purchase of a sexual service.

Several other CATW affiliates were invited as speakers at the TARA conference. Julie Bindel, columnist at the Guardian newspaper, spoke on "What Deters Men from Buying Sex? International Best Practice in Curbing the Demand for Prostitution." It is pointless, Bindel argued, to run awareness-raising campaigns aimed at potential buyers unless accompanied by some sort of state-imposed sanction. Melissa Farley from Prostitution Research and Education in San Francisco, USA, presented the results from her new research on the prostitution industry in Nevada (see also Publications). The conference attracted many interested and active participants, including representatives from Routes Out, a Scottish organization assisting women who want to end their involvement in prostitution, immigrant support groups, local women's anti-violence organizations, and from the Strathclyde police, and other police forces around the UK.



CATW Challenges Legalization and Regulation of the Sex Industry in Bulgaria and Romania - Bulgaria Reverses its Course

In October, 2007, Bulgaria reversed its political course and declared that it would not legalize prostitution and the sex industry. Due to the extraordinary efforts of MP and ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nadezhda Mihaylova, governmental officials, including the President, the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor General and the Minister of the Interior, announced at a key public conference that this government would not legalize prostitution. The Minister of the Interior, who had earlier proposed legalization, reversed his former support for legalization of the sex industry and distanced himself from pro-legalization legislation. The forum received wide national and international press coverage, including the New York Times, the International Herald Tribune, the AP and all the Bulgarian major dailies.

This conference was part of a new CATW project that began in Bulgaria and Romania in April, 2007. Called The CHALLENGE Project, it contests the trend, especially in legislative proposals now being discussed in the "new Europe," to separate prostitution and trafficking. The CHALLENGE Project is coordinated by Caritas, Bucharest in Romania; and by the Institute for Democracy, Stability and Security in Southeast Europe (IDSSEE) and the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF), each located in Sofia, Bulgaria. Both Romania and Bulgaria are now confronting pressures to legalize the sex industry similar to those faced by other recent EU accession countries. Both countries also face an enormous problem of trafficking in women and children, enhanced by organized crime and political corruption.

In June, 2007, MP Mihaylova arranged for Janice Raymond and Malka Marcovich of CATW to meet with the Prime Minister of Bulgaria to present the case against legalization of prostitution. CATW's other NGO partner in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Gender Foundation (BGRF), with the Association for Society and Values, coordinated a signature appeal against legalizing prostitution. Additional project activities in Bulgaria include drafting legislation that will criminalize the organizing, provision and use of "sexual services," and secure protection for prostituted and trafficked victims; and conducting public awareness campaigns about the connections between prostitution and trafficking, using not only roundtables and seminars, but leaflets, posters and the creation of a website.

In Romania, Caritas has brought together a diverse coalition of human rights, feminist and religious organizations, including the governmental National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons; ARTEMIS - Women Association Against Violence, Cluj; APoWeR - Association for the Promotion of Women in Romania, Timisoara; ADPARE - Association for Development of Alternative Practices for Reintegration and Education; and AIDROM - Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania. This network has been instrumental in advocating with governmental officials against legalization of prostitution in Romania. In July, 2007, for example, the Romanian Prime Minister clearly stated his position against legalization of prostitution.

In October, 2007, CATW, Caritas and the Romanian network organized a public forum on legalization of prostitution in Bucharest. Janice Raymond and Gunilla Ekberg of CATW spoke at the conference, which received national media coverage. In February, 2008, Ambassador Mark Lagon, director of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, is scheduled to speak at a press conference in Bucharest organized by CATW and Caritas. Additional project activities in Romania include media trainings on the links between prostitution and trafficking.

Bulgaria and Romania are part of the current trend in Europe and elsewhere to turn away from legalizing and regulating prostitution and the sex industry. CATW has been a leader in this campaign for many years and is now seeing the results of its work with partners in different parts of the globe.

New Publications by CATW Members and Partners

Making Sex Work: A Failed Experiment with Legalized Prostitution, (Spinifex 2007), is written by Mary Lucille Sullivan, PhD who is a member of the Australian Branch of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. Her book explores the impact of the legalization of prostitution in 1984 in the State of Victoria, Australia. After carefully examining issues such as the connections between mainstream businesses and the sex industry, the involvement of organized crime, prostituted women's health, violence against prostituted women, and the invisibility of the demand, Dr. Sullivan concludes that the government's legalization of prostitution is "a failed social experiment that harms women and girls in prostitution and ultimately affects the civil status of all women."

Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections, (Prostitution Research & Education 2007), by Melissa Farley, PhD, summarizes a groundbreaking two-year research study on legal and illegal prostitution and sex trafficking in Nevada, USA. Dr. Farley exposes the severe exploitation of women in Nevada's legal brothels as well as the intricate workings of the vast illegal sex trade in Las Vegas. Further, she examines the important role of the demand for prostitution—the male buyers—and their sense of entitlement to buy women's bodies. In *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada*, Dr. Farley also demonstrates the inextricable links between sex trafficking and both legal and illegal prostitution.

Confronting the Demand for Sex Trafficking: A Handbook for Law Enforcement, (Apne Aap Women Worldwide 2007) by Ruchira Gupta and Ruchi Sinha, was written to train law enforcement as well as NGOs and other governmental groups in India who are working to combat sex trafficking by curbing the demand for prostituted women and children. In 2005, CATW and Apne Aap began their partnership in a project to counter demand for prostitution and trafficking in India. CATW participated in three trainings and consultations in 2005 and 2006, which led to the development of this Handbook. Contributors to the Handbook included former CATW Co-Executive Director and current Board Member, Dr. Janice G. Raymond, CATW-Asia Pacific Executive Director, Jean Enriquez, and CATW Senior Policy Advisor, Barbara C. Kryszko.

●●●●● CATW in Action ●●●●●

CATW Takes Leadership Role in Passage of Tough New York State Law Combating Sex Trafficking

After an intensive three-year advocacy campaign, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women joined Equality Now and five other feminist organizations fighting violence against women and girls (GEMS, New York City NOW, InMotion, My Sister's Place, and Sanctuary for Families) in leading a successful effort to pass strong anti-trafficking legislation in New York State.

The strongest anti-trafficking measure in the country went into effect on November 1, 2007

Attacking both supply and demand in the sex industry, the new law, widely considered the strongest anti-trafficking measure in the country, went into effect on November 1, 2007. It provides law enforcement with the tools necessary to combat what the United States Department of State calls a grave human rights violation and a form of modern day slavery. Most trafficking victims are women and children, and most victims are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation.

The legislation creates the crime of Sex Trafficking, making it a Class B Felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison. The heart of this new crime is advancing or profiting from prostitution. Its definition identifies the vast array of tactics of power and control traffickers use against vulnerable victims--not only physical violence but also threats, imprisonment, use of drugs and alcohol, debt bondage, taking documents, misrepresentations and omissions, and instilling fear of arrest or deportation. Although many victims are moved across state or international borders, trade in human beings, not movement, defines trafficking in New York's legislation. A Class D felony of labor trafficking is also included in the new law.

The demand side of the sex industry is addressed in a provision raising the penalty for patronizing a prostitute. The legislation makes the lowest count of patronizing a Class A Misdemeanor.

The new law tackles the growing problem of sex tourism, which fuels trafficking in countries outside of the United States. Selling travel-related services knowing that the traveler's journey is for purposes of patronizing prostitutes is, under the legislation, a Class D Felony and a crime whether or not prostitution is legal in the traveler's destination.

Victims' needs are addressed by easing the way to eligibility for social services

Victims' needs are addressed by easing the way to eligibility for the social services victims need to reclaim their lives and by authorizing state contracts with agencies to provide services. A new interagency task force will oversee the implementation of the new law, collect data, develop training, and identify best practices for combating trafficking.

Focusing now on the effective implementation of the new law, CATW testified on December 11, 2007 at a hearing on the subject before key representatives of New York State's Division of Criminal Justice Services. Representing CATW, Founding Board Member Dorchon Leidholdt emphasized the importance of police and prosecutors strictly enforcing the increased sanctions against prostitution buyers. "The profits that traffickers seek can only be made if there are buyers willing to pay," she pointed out. "By cutting off demand, the traffickers' major source of illicit revenue--the payments by the buyers of the women and girls who are sold as sexual slaves--is reduced, thus diminishing the incentive for sex trafficking in the first place."

News from CATW's New York Office



Co-Executive Director Norma Ramos (Right) Program Associate Anya Cherneff (Left)

Shortly after taking her position as Co-Executive Director, Norma Ramos opened CATW's first New York office early this year, and hired Anya Cherneff, a graduate of Columbia University, to serve as a Program and Development Associate.

In her efforts to heighten awareness of CATW's mission, Co-Executive Director, Norma Ramos, has taken advantage of many speaking and media opportunities, including having a letter published in the New York Times. Additionally, CATW's New York office received and hosted scores of visitors from different foreign delegations, many referred by the US Department of State. CATW presented to each delegation on the best practices to combat trafficking and prostitution, placing an emphasis on demand. Many lively discussions were had, with visitors frequently remarking that they were grateful to hear such a strong and principled analysis of trafficking.

It is also important to link CATW's work with those using their artistry to call attention to the harm of human trafficking. This past summer, CATW formed a partnership with playwright Anna Klein, author of the critically acclaimed play, "Becoming Natasha," a powerful dramatic exposé of the devastating impact of demand on the women and girls it victimizes. Ms. Klein featured CATW speakers, including Norma Ramos, on the nightly post-performance panels following the New York City performances.

On November 13, 2007, in New York City, CATW hosted a successful screening of the powerful anti-trafficking film, "Holly." Over 170 people attended the screening and learned about the issue of sex trafficking. The evening featured a post-screening panel with the filmmakers, U.S. Ambassador and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Mark Lagon, and CATW's Norma Ramos.

●●●●● CATW United Nations Advocacy ●●●●●

51st Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women

CATW was an active participant at the 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at the United Nations in New York from 26 February to 9 March 2007. The CSW considered "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" as its priority theme.

On February 28th, CATW UN Representative, Cecilia Blewer, facilitated a caucus on trafficking and sexual exploitation to work on proposed amendments to the CSW's draft Agreed Conclusions, which were distributed to government delegates. The caucus advocated for the addition of strong language on the issue of trafficking, including the demand.

On March 1st, during the CSW's Expert Panel on the Elimination of all forms of violence against women, Amanda Norejko delivered our oral intervention concerning the commercial sexual exploitation of the girl-child, which was drafted and reviewed by Barbara Kryszko, Amanda Norejko, Cecilia Blewer and Clare Nolan. This panel was a follow up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at national and international levels, and included the participation of Yakin Ertuk, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

At the CSW's Interactive dialogue on progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality" on March 2nd, the Philippine delegate highlighted CATW-AP's camps to sensitize boys and young men to curb the demand as a best practice in her country.

CATW also held two well-attended NGO side events which were co-sponsored by UNANIMA International and Congregation of Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The first panel, held on February 28th, focused on Sexual Exploitation and the Girl Child, and featured Norma Ramos, CATW Co-Executive Director; Lucilia, 16 years old, United States, a prostitution survivor from Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS); Roodnir Joseph, 15 years old, Haiti, UNANIMA International; Magnoudeqa Pitekkelabou, 14 years old, Togo, UNANIMA International; Jordana A. Confino, 16 years old, Co-founder and Chair, Girls Learn International; and moderator Adrienne Anifant, CATW. On March 2nd, a second panel was held on Men, Boys, and the Demand for Prostitution featuring Rachel Lloyd, Founder and Executive Director, Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS); Ken Franzblau, Trafficking Campaign Director, Equality Now; Gudrun Jonsdottir, Director, Stigamot, Iceland; Dorchen A. Leidholdt, CATW Founding Board Member; and moderator Norma Ramos, CATW Co-Executive Director. A reception followed the second panel.

Some of the highlights of the CSW's Agreed Conclusions on "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" included a call for governments to "Review, strengthen or adopt legislation or policies to eradicate child pornography, including child pornography transmitted through the media and ICTs, and related forms of exploitation of children and strengthen efforts to combat the existence of a market that encourages child pornography, including the prosecution of those who sexually exploit or abuse children;" and to "Take appropriate measures to ensure that all efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons are gender- and child-sensitive, including in actions to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, such as poverty and gender inequality, and to eliminate the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of women and girls that leads to trafficking, and where girls are identified in situations of exploitation take all appropriate measures to remove them from harm and protect them without delay."

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UN.GIFT)

The UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UN.GIFT), was launched by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in March 2007, and is managed in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. UN.GIFT aims to mobilize stakeholders such as governments, businesses and civil society to achieve its mission "to eradicate human trafficking by (i) reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; (ii) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim, and (iii) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons." (See What is UN.GIFT? at www.ungift.org). In its efforts to achieve these goals, UN.GIFT is organizing "The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking," which will bring together a wide range of stakeholders from February 13-15, 2008 for a series of plenary sessions and panel discussions and workshops.

CATW has been active in UNODC and UN.GIFT events and committees. In April 2007, CATW Co-Executive Director Gunilla S. Ekberg participated in the UN.GIFT NGO Advisory Committee on behalf of CATW. Together with ally and

partner organization Equality Now, CATW fought to ensure that the NGOs with a pro-prostitution perspective did not succeed in monopolizing the agenda.

Malka Marcovich (MAPP, France) and Gunilla S. Ekberg also participated in an UNODC informal expert group meeting to review and finalize a set of draft model laws against trafficking in persons in Vienna on October 1-4, 2007. At the meeting, the CATW representatives emphasized the importance of developing comprehensive legislation on human trafficking that encompasses measures that discourage the demand and are consistent with the human rights principles expressed in international agreements and instruments, such as the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. Contrary to the draft proposal submitted by the UNODC Dutch consultants, such legislation must also take into consideration the actual reality of women who are trafficked for prostitution and accord them maximum protection by ensuring that the consent of a victim to trafficking is irrelevant to the prosecution of traffickers.

CATW will continue its advocacy work in 2008 at the UN in Vienna, and in particular at the Vienna Forum, through such efforts as organizing a panel and a meeting with CATW affiliates, and promoting strong policies against the demand.


CATW United Nations Advocacy


CATW Advocacy at the United Nations in Geneva

During 2007, CATW representatives Laura Chavez and Malka Marcovich closely followed the United Nations' reform process to improve its own effectiveness and responsiveness, including its creation of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which was inaugurated in June 2006.

During the 5th session of the HRC in June 2007, United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings, Sigma Huda, was prevented from leaving Bangladesh to present her second annual thematic report on forced marriages in the context of trafficking in persons (A/HRC/4/23 (24 January 2007)). CATW issued a press release expressing its grave concern for the Special Rapporteur given the actions of the government of Bangladesh, which is member-state of the HRC.

At the 6th session of the HRC in September 2007, although CATW advocated for the United Nations to maintain the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (WGCFS), these efforts were not successful. The WGCFS was created more than 30 years ago as an institution under the Human Rights Commission, with the purpose to ensure the implementation of the three conventions concerning Slavery and Practices Similar to Slavery, one of which is the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

The WGCFS provided a unique forum for survivors of sexual exploitation, trafficking and prostitution to testify on the harm of these crimes/violations, as well as for non-governmental organizations, such as CATW, to present information on the global situation on prostitution and trafficking in women as examples of contemporary forms of slavery. The WGCFS has been replaced by a thematic Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, whose mandate unfortunately represents a regression in the field of international human rights norms and of implementation of international conventions.

At the same session, CATW submitted a written statement (A/HRC/6/NGO/43 (5 September 2007)), urging the Human Rights Council to endorse the second annual thematic report on forced marriages in the context of trafficking in persons by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Sigma Huda.

In addition to following the HRC sessions, Laura Chavez actively participated in the annual meetings of the four relevant Geneva-based United Nations agencies, namely the United Nations Office of the High-Commissioner of Human Rights (UNHCHR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office of the High-Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as in the annual meeting of the inter-governmental body, International Organization for Migration (IOM). Ms. Chavez also met with the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Juan Miguel Petit, to draw his attention to CATW's concerns on this topic. Additionally, she worked with other non-governmental organizations accredited at the UN in Geneva and participated in a number of conferences and roundtables on issues related to sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

BANGLADESH: SIGMA HUDA, HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER AND UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TRAFFICKING, SENTENCED TO A 3-YEAR JAIL TERM

Press Release
August 27, 2007

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women condemns the 3-year sentence handed down by a special military-controlled court in Dhaka against human rights lawyer, Sigma Huda, and calls for her immediate release. Sigma was convicted in a mock trial on trumped-up charges of corruption. Proceedings were conducted in a special court, with irregular procedures, under close army supervision.

The sentence is yet another travesty of justice imposed by the current military-backed government who continues to arrest and imprison thousands of people since taking control in January 2007. In spite of the fact that Sigma Huda has a debilitating heart condition and is in secondary renal failure, she has been detained in prison since the beginning of July 2007 under appalling conditions with no access to the doctors or the treatment that she needs.

Dr. Janice Raymond, representative of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, states: "It is an irony that Sigma Huda, who has spent much of her life fighting corruption has now been condemned as corrupt, with the court using 'evidence' obtained from witnesses under duress in a legal trial whose judgment was pre-ordained. And it is a mockery of international human rights that a woman who has defended many victims of human rights abuses is now the victim herself of state-sponsored human rights abuses, deprived of her right to medical treatment and of her right to a free and fair trial."

Please send letters of protest to your government's embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh and to your foreign ministries.

In the United States, please send these letters to the Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520.

In Europe, please send additional e-mails to Luis Filipe Marques Amado, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, presently holding the presidency of the European Union, at: ministro@mne.gov.pt and to Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission at: sg-web.president@ec.europa.eu

For more information contact: info@catwinternational.org

37th Session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women-CATW's Shadow Report on the Netherlands

CATW participated at the 37th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) held at the United Nations in New York from 12 January to 2 February 2007. CEDAW examined the periodic reports of Tajikistan, Austria, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Suriname, and Vietnam.

The periodic report of the Netherlands touted its policy of legalization of prostitution as effective in combating trafficking in women and children. CATW produced an NGO Shadow Report critiquing the Netherlands' policy of legalizing prostitution.

Laura Chavez Vicente, a Dutch citizen, researched the conditions in the Netherlands since prostitution was legalized in 2000 and reported her findings to the Committee. Amanda Norejko, Barbara Kryszyk, and Ryan Candee produced the final CATW Shadow Report.

The Shadow Report highlighted the harms of the exploitation of prostitution and explained the link between prostitution and trafficking. It explained how the Dutch policy of legalization of prostitution is a violation of its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Specifically, Article 5(a) of CEDAW requires States parties to "take all appropriate measures: to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women." Prostitution is a customary practice based on stereotypical roles for men and women that has harmful effects on the individual women in prostitution and on women in general. Far from eliminating this harmful cultural practice, a policy of legalization of prostitution encourages its proliferation and promotes its social acceptance. Such a policy is in direct conflict with the Netherlands' obligation under Article 5(a).

Far from eliminating this harmful cultural practice, a policy of legalization of prostitution encourages its proliferation.....

Further, Article 6 of CEDAW requires that "States parties . . . take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women." By requiring States to suppress the "exploitation of prostitution of women," CEDAW unequivocally proscribes brothel-keeping and pimping. The Netherlands' system of legalized prostitution facilitates the operation of brothels and related enterprises of pimps profiting from the commercial sexual exploitation of women in prostitution. In so doing, it violates the Netherlands' obligations under Article 6 of CEDAW.

The report showed how the Dutch Government's regime of legalized prostitution is based on erroneous notions about prostitution, especially the false belief that prostitution is a profession that most women enter voluntarily and of their own free choice. Such notions are ignorant of the harms inherent in prostitution. These beliefs about prostitution are squarely contradicted both by research into the conditions that propel women into, and trap them in, prostitution and by the voluminous anecdotal information about life in the sex industry. In addition, the Dutch prostitution legislation fails to take into account the fact that prostitution itself constitutes violence against women and cannot be divorced from the physical and psychological harms to which women in prostitution are subjected.

The Committee was "concerned at the insufficient evaluation of the abolition of the ban on brothels, noting that the study that was conducted was inconclusive."

Laura Chavez Vicente presented CATW's report to the Committee and answered questions by Committee members about the issue of prostitution and trafficking in the Netherlands.

Dutch officials defended the Netherlands' decision to legalize brothels. Committee members questioned the validity of recent studies in the Netherlands that presented prostitution as a profession of choice. They expressed concern that 80 per cent of prostituted women were foreign-born, noting that foreigners often lacked the language, education and technical skills to compete for jobs in the traditional labor market.

The Committee issued its Concluding Comments on the examination of the Netherlands' compliance with its obligations under CEDAW. In the Concluding Comments' Principle Areas of Concern and Recommendations, the Committee stated that it was "concerned at the insufficient evaluation of the abolition of the ban on brothels, noting that the study that was conducted was inconclusive. The Committee is especially concerned about the insufficient assessment of the impact of the law on the position of foreign women engaged in prostitution, since the vast majority of prostitutes are migrant women who are excluded from working legally as prostitutes and who may be especially vulnerable to exploitation and violence."



●●● CATW Around the World ●●●

CATW Africa/Mali

In Mali, young women and girls are often sent from rural areas to urban centres to earn money that they either, send back to their families or, save for their dowries. In 2006, CATW Mali carried out a project, which collected data on the scale of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and developed effective intervention strategies for women and girls who migrate to Bamako hoping to earn money in domestic service. CATW Mali held a one-day workshop in 2007 where more than thirty of the women and girls from the six target districts took part. The purpose of the workshop was to create a dialogue with the women and girls, and to sensitize them to the risks and consequences of being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. They were also given information on how they can, with the assistance of project members, pursue potential perpetrators in court, and inform and get assistance from public authorities and civil society about their situation.

Another workshop was held for local administrative leaders and those police officers, judges and staff at the women's prison centre, Bole, in Bamako, who also took part in the study. The goal of this workshop was to recruit the public servants as partners in the fight against the sexual exploitation and trafficking of young women and girls for domestic work.

CATW Mali members travelled to some study participants' home villages in order to meet with their parents/ families. The family members were informed about the results of the study. Parents and researchers also discussed the abuse to which many of their daughters had been subjected in their place of work, and about the risks of becoming a victim of sexual exploitation or of trafficking. The family members expressed concerns and worries, mainly focused on their economic situations and the ways their daughters could help them improve their living conditions in the villages. Nonetheless, as their main concern was the safety of their daughters, they were open to listening to the study results, and to learning more about how to assist their daughters if they become victims of violence and sexual abuse while working as a domestic worker.

During the project, the young women and girls were given the opportunity to attend literacy courses in the national language, Bamanan. Many of the women came to the CATW office in the little time off they had from their work to speak with CATW staff and to meet and socialize with other women in similar circumstances.

The results of the study and general information about trafficking in women and girls for the purposes of domestic work were also widely disseminated through local and national radio, TV and newspapers after a well-attended press conference that CATW Mali held in Bamako.

CATW-Asia Pacific Continues Its Successful Efforts in Combating Sex Trafficking and Prostitution

In the year 2007, CATW-AP soared high with visibility and popularization of the anti-prostitution policy framework not only in the Philippines but in other parts of Asia. At the same time, CATW-AP deepened its perspective and integration with the grassroots sector.

On November 20, 2007, the anti-prostitution bill in the Philippines was filed by the Senate President, Manuel Villar. CATW-AP will continue work to advocate for its passage.

On October 25, 2007, Executive Director of CATW-AP Jean Enriquez spoke in an international forum in Pusan, South Korea, to mark the anniversary of the enactment of the anti-prostitution acts in the country



On October 5, 2007, simultaneous activities were held throughout the Philippines to mark the International Day of No Prostitution. Five hundred people attended the forum in Cagayan de Oro City organized by CATW-AP members Talikala and Tisake, a survivors' group. Around 150 joined the

torch parade later in the night, calling for the immediate passage of the anti-prostitution bill. In Davao City, three hundred people attended the form with the same call. Around the same number of three hundred attended a rally in Olongapo City, led by Buklod, another survivors' group.

A major victory is the passage of the anti-prostitution ordinance in Olongapo City on October 18, 2007. Olongapo, where prostitution has long been defended by the local council, was urged by CATW-AP to fight the sex industry in its Bantay-bugaw Project (trafficker/pimp-watch). Trainings were held among local government officials in the city. Passing city-level anti-prostitution ordinances is a strategy the Philippine members of the Coalition adopted as it takes time to pass the national law. Therefore, parallel efforts are being pursued at both national and local levels.

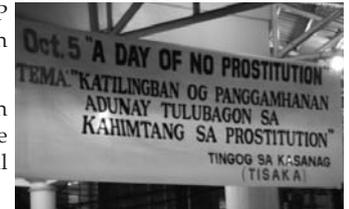
CATW-AP's world-renowned strategy of educating young men to address the demand side of trafficking was focused on Moslem Mindanao¹ and Igorot² Cordillera. On May 24-26, 2007, 39 boys attended CATW-AP's 7th Young Men's Camp on Gender Issues, Sexuality and Prostitution. One-fifth of this number is from the Moslem group. On October 19-21, 2007, 25 boys attended the 8th YMC. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of this are indigenous/Igorot boys.

Similarly, CATW-AP's research program focused on trafficking of indigenous and Moslem women and children. It investigated the demand side of trafficking in these areas, initially surfacing that local men, not only tourists and businessmen, constitute the buyers. Another research project investigates pornography as defined by young men, women and survivors of violence. In the research, a correlation between domestic violence and the incidence of consumption of their abusers is being established.

Throughout the year, CATW-AP was visible in the dailies and Jean Enriquez was interviewed regularly on national television. By November 2007, she landed on the pages of Marie Claire magazine as one of their 10 Women of the World, citing CATW-AP's groundbreaking projects. Another article in the same issue of the magazine focused on the shelter program, which attracted the support of two models, Celine Lopez and Cristina Garcia. Lopez also facilitated contacts with legislators which led to the immediately re-filing of the bill.

1 Southern island of the Philippines, with numerous conflict areas, one-fifth of the population being Moslem, who have been historically discriminated against.

2 Generic term for the indigenous peoples of the highlands of Northern Philippines.



CATW Australia (CATWA)

The main work of Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia (CATWA) in 2007 was to publicize the harms created by legalization for the women in prostitution, for local communities, for policing in a context of increased organized crime, corruption and the trafficking of women, mainly from Korea and China. Members carried out educational work through the newly updated CATWA website, and answered queries from the public, students, researchers, policy makers and activists nationally and internationally. Members of CATWA have also responded to media requests, written submissions, given talks and held conferences. In addition, CATWA continued to run an email list through which members continue to coordinate action in local areas of Australia and New Zealand and to keep the 100 members informed about developments nationally and internationally.

In the states of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, brothel prostitution has been legalized. In Queensland the legislation enables small towns to apply for exemption from the requirement that they allow brothels to be established in their communities. In 2007, CATWA advised concerned community groups and individuals involved in campaigning against the establishment of legal brothels in two small towns in northern Victoria. Groups set up to oppose planning approval for such brothels take their cases before a council and then to VCAT (a planning tribunal). In all cases so far, the citizen groups have lost their cases, because "moral objections" are not accepted under the legislation. CATWA intends to provide liaison for these groups on its website so that advice can be shared. At present, CATWA provides contact information with similar campaigners in New South Wales.

In response to the 2007 Western Australia (WA) legalization proposal (see article on page 5), CATWA prepared materials and did a mailout to all WA legislators. CATWA has been in ongoing contact with two groups in WA campaigning against the proposals, offering advice and information. Mary Sullivan, CATWA member, also spoke at a conference against the proposal in WA in September 2007.

In addition, during 2007, CATWA was responsible for the preparation of a shadow report for CEDAW about the situation concerning the legalized sex industry in New Zealand, and organized a very successful one-day conference on pornography in October entitled The Pornification of Culture. Over 100 persons attended from all walks of life, including social workers, academics, and workers on sex offender programs, marriage therapists and activists.

In April 2007, Sheila Jeffreys spoke at a conference on Violence Against Women with Disabilities in Stockholm, Sweden, where she delivered a speech entitled: Disability and Sexual Exploitation, showing the way in which legalized prostitution industries are developing niche markets "servicing" disabled men, and the ways in which women carers of the disabled are increasingly expected to provide or arrange for the provision of prostitution to their clients.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia is run entirely by volunteers, who also carry out all activities.

●●● CATW Around the World ●●●

IROKO in Italy and Nigeria

The IROKO Association continues to provide protection and assistance to women (and their children) who have been trafficked to Italy for the purposes of prostitution by providing transitional housing, counseling, legal advocacy, immigration and economic assistance, vocational training, and employment guidance and insertion. In 2007, IROKO organized professional training and Italian courses for survivors in collaboration with the ADECCO Foundation that also provided some participants with alternative employment positions. Women who attend training courses receive a scholarship to ensure that they do not leave the courses due to financial difficulties.

In 2006, IROKO started an awareness-raising program to discourage the demand for prostitution. Students between the ages of 16-19, in two senior high schools in Turin, took part in nine lectures and discussions on gender equality and relations, stereotypical images of women and girls in public culture, and gender based violence. Eventually, the students focused on male demand as a key factor in the promotion of sexual exploitation and prostitution. The students who went through the program had an opportunity to discuss matters that usually are not talked about in their peer groups or at home. The program is very popular among students and IROKO receives more requests for participation than it can accommodate. Some of the participants in the program have also become volunteers at IROKO. The program is seen as a best-practices example on demand prevention that is being promoted in other schools in Turin and in the region.

In 2007, IROKO organized the first international conference on prostitution and trafficking in persons in Edo State in collaboration with CATW. The conference, which brought together key actors from Nigeria and internationally, intended to find solutions to the steadily increasing problem of the trafficking of women from Edo State into prostitution markets in countries all around the world. A second conference is planned for 2008 (See also feature article on page 1). IROKO is also developing a program to assist Nigerian women and girls who are victims of trafficking for prostitution purposes to Italy. This program incorporates their voluntary and safe return to, and re-integration in, Nigeria through the development of a sustainable economic activity in Edo State.

Esohe Aghatise, the leader of IROKO, is a sought-after expert and speaker at international events focusing on human trafficking. In 2007, she was designated as a "Hero Acting To End Modern-Day Slavery" in the 2007 US Government Trafficking in Persons report. In November, she was invited to Norway by the Women's Front with the specific purpose of advising government officials, law enforcement agencies, public authorities and NGOs on how to best provide support services to, and create safe return programs for, the large group of young Nigerian women and girls that have been trafficked into Norway by organized crime networks during the past several years.

●●● CATW Around the World ●●●

Republic of Georgia

During 2007, the Georgian CATW partner, Center for Foreign Citizens and Migration Rights and Security (FCRS), has continued to provide training for socially unprotected women, single mothers, refugees and internally displaced women who consider migration abroad.

The organization has also carried out reintegration courses for women who are survivors of trafficking for sexual purposes. The number of women who wish to attend the course has steadily increased since its beginning in 2006. In 2007, seventy women from the towns of Gurjaani, Dedoplistskaro and Tsnori in the Kakheti region were given the opportunity to participate. The FCRS has found that the most effective way to reach out to potential course participants is through home-based friendly meetings within local communities. Local women invite interested women as guests into their homes. They share knowledge, past experiences and lessons learned.

This year's participants attended mini-lectures with Q and A sessions twice a month. These were run by a lawyer and focused on topics such as legal aspects of women's human rights, and discrimination. Women have the opportunity to meet with a psychologist once or twice a month either individually or in a group. These confidential sessions allow women to discuss and attempt to solve problems with family members, to disclose they are victims of domestic violence, and to find solutions to their situation. Several women from the course expressed interest in working with the FCRS in the future to help other women regain hope. The FCRS also runs a hotline for women who request information and for victims of trafficking and exploitative migration.

In 2007, the political situation in Georgia was quite unstable. From mid-October to the beginning of November 2007, street demonstrations took place in the capital, Tbilisi. On November 7, the president declared a state of emergency, which lasted for two weeks. Presidential elections are expected to be carried out in the beginning of January 2008. Although this is a difficult period, the courses will continue, except for a brief suspension of lectures.

FCRS and other human rights organizations in Georgia are fighting against trafficking and illegal migration, participating in legislative and political reform and working to ensure that the voices of potential migrants and/or victims of trafficking are heard by lawmakers.

CATW Europe Moldova Project

During 2006-2007, the Coalition against Trafficking in Women Europe carried out a work reintegration pilot project for women in Moldova in collaboration with the local non-governmental organization, Women for a Contemporary Society, the Moldovan Ministry of Labour and the Calarashi Employment Agency. The project, which was funded by the French Ministry of Labour through its international development fund, GIP International, targeted twenty women who had been victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation or who were living in a situation of grave vulnerability.



Director of NGO "Women for a Contemporary Society", Veronica Lupu (left), visiting the Employment Agency in Calarashi, Moldova

The women who participated in the project were given the opportunity to pursue paid training in their chosen profession, with the objective that they would obtain steady employment or run their own small business, thus avoiding re-victimisation. During the training, they also had access to counselling support services, and were provided with start-up materials and funds in order to be able to practice their profession. By the end of the nine-month project period, all participants had found employment; either as computer technicians, hairdressers or tailors. It is the intention of the project partners that the pilot project will be used as a model for other similar projects in Moldova or elsewhere in the region.

CATW Latin America and Caribbean/Mexico

CATW Mexico continues its groundbreaking prevention of child prostitution and trafficking with a wide variety of awareness-raising, educational and law reform activities, including a strong component against the demand. CATW Mexico is also the coordinating body for the CATW Latin America and Caribbean (CATW LAC) network, which consists of dedicated organizations and individuals in 25 countries.



In April of 2007, the Mexican Federal Criminal Code sections on all forms of child commercial sexual exploitation, child pornography and child sex tourism were amended, making these crimes felonies with harsher sentences, and giving them organized criminal status. Also in 2007, the Mexico City Criminal Code was amended in a similar way. In order to ensure the enforcement of these amendments, CATW Mexico carried out a large number of training sessions for local prosecutors and 317 law enforcement officers in Mexico City. As a result, the authorities in ten other Mexican states approached the organization to receive the training, including the Government of the State of Michoacán. At the initiative of CATW Mexico, the Mexico City Police will introduce a Code of Conduct in January 2008.

During 2007, CATW Mexico also trained another 1,200 individuals to prevent commercial sexual exploitation, and delivered workshops to 130 elementary, high school and college students and teachers in Mexico City, the State of Michoacan, and the State of Mexico.

During the year, there have been several attempts by local legislative assembly deputies in Mexico City to legalize and regulate the capital city sex industry. Due to the intervention by CATW Mexico through local protests and nation-wide anti-legalization campaigns, the proposals were delayed and, hopefully, will be

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CATW Latin America and Caribbean/Mexico

defeated. One particular campaign, titled "A Call to Reflection," brought in over 500 national and international signatures from politically-prominent individuals and organizations in support of CATW Mexico's anti-legalization of prostitution petition.

One of the most important aspects of the work of CATW Mexico is the rescue and rehabilitation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation. In 2007, the organization rescued fourteen identified victims of human trafficking, including, with the collaboration of Mexican and US federal authorities, a young girl who was taken to the United States, where she was violated, raped and prostituted by her captors. As there is currently no shelter for victims of sexual exploitation and related crimes in Mexico, CATW Mexico has been advocating for a specialized shelter for girl victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation through coordination, meetings and several trainings.

CATW Mexico intends to continue its law and policy reform activism on the national, regional and international level against all forms of sexual commercial exploitation including its commitment to complete legal protection for victims of prostitution and trafficking over 18 years of age in Mexico.

CATW Chile

CATW affiliate organization CERSO (Centro de Estudios y Rehabilitación Psicosocial), was created in 1984. Until its closure in November 2007 due to lack of government financial support, CERSO was the only center in Chile that gave protection and assistance to girls who were victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking for sexual purposes. In 2007 alone, the organization rescued and sheltered 20 girls. CERSO continues to do preventative work as a non-governmental organization, making the plight of women and girls who are survivors of prostitution and sexual exploitation visible. It carries out awareness-raising activities, advocates for change with the government and publishes books and articles. CERSO also promotes its best-practices shelter model in other Latin American countries with the hope that other governments and NGOs will start girls-only shelters for survivors of sexual exploitation.

CATW Argentina

During 2007, CATW Argentina has carried out a lobbying campaign aimed at lawmakers to urgently pass a comprehensive law on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The objective of the campaign has been to ensure that this law is consistent with the Palermo Protocol provisions on consent being irrelevant for the prosecution of traffickers regardless of the victim's age. This campaign prevented another law proposed, already voted on in the Argentinean Senate, from being put forward in the lower house.

CATW Argentina has successfully prevented legal initiatives to regulate the sex industry in several provinces in Argentina as well as in the capital, Buenos Aires. The members have also organized a national awareness-raising campaign, "Ni una víctima más de las redes de prostitución" (No More Victims of the Prostitution Rings).

CATW Argentina has developed contacts with the Argentinean media. Members are often invited to participate in radio and TV programs on topics such as feminism, prostitution, trafficking in women and children, and smuggling of migrants. In 2007, CATW Argentina was responsible for a regular information feature on a weekly radio program. This radio project will continue in 2008.

CATW Argentina is a founder and coordinating body of the network No a la Trata (No to Trafficking). This network has over 700 members in Latin America and Europe. In addition, the organization coordinates the CATW-LAC network in the MERCOSUR region, with new member organizations in Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia.

CATW Haiti

In 2007, the Foundation Zanmi Touman organization became the CATW LAC focal point in Haiti. The members organized meetings and toured the whole country encouraging individual women and women's organizations to join the CATW LAC network. This work has been very successful, despite the continuing difficult political situation in Haiti. The organization is coordinating the French-speaking countries of the CATW LAC, such as Guadalupe and French Guyana, in an effort to consolidate the presence of CATW LAC in this region. Foundation Zanmi Touman also works with different United Nations agencies on issues of commercial sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking in human beings, especially women and children.

CATW Panama

Prostitution in Panama has been legalized since the construction and opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. Prostituted women are registered and must undergo regular health checks. In March 2004, Panama enacted the so-called Law No. 16, which includes provisions to prevent and prosecute all forms of sexual exploitation. It also amended the Penal Code by adding a chapter on trafficking for sexual exploitation, sex tourism and child pornography. The legislation permits public authorities and community groups to act with more efficiency in the prevention and sanction of these crimes and to reduce impunity.

In 2007, CATW Panama has been active in raising awareness about prostitution and trafficking in human beings. In addition, CATW organized and carried out training sessions for justice system operators, policy makers and law makers.

CATW Peru

In Peru, the sex industry is legalized. The Ministry of Interior is responsible for the licensing and regulation of brothels. Prostituted women must be registered, then they are issued special identification cards and subjected to regular health checks.

The AMAR Center in Lima, run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, is a member of CATW Peru. The Center staff does outreach work with teenage girls and women who are sexually exploited through street prostitution. Through this work, they have become very aware of the continuous presence of criminal networks that traffic young women into prostitution. Another aspect of their work is prevention. They educate women and girls about the risks of recruitment into the sex industry by traffickers and buyers.

CATW Uruguay

In Uruguay, prostitution is legal for persons over the age of 18. Despite having ratified the Palermo Protocol in 2005, Uruguay still only has legislation that criminalizes trafficking in children for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour.

During 2007, CATW Uruguay was funded by the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to undertake training of social services agencies and networks on issues concerning trafficking in human beings all around the country. The members have also been involved in awareness raising activities, and they have carried out trainings with judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers with the aim of creating a national working group on trafficking in human beings.

Featured New CATW Affiliate Organizations

Enslavement Prevention Alliance West Africa (EPAWA), Ghana

Enslavement Prevention Alliance West Africa (EPAWA) is a non-governmental organization at the forefront of the anti-human trafficking movement in West Africa. Its purpose is to mount a broad-based comprehensive campaign across West Africa to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms, especially prostitution and trafficking in women and children.

EPAWA believes that the long-term solution to human trafficking does not lie only with providing services to victims of trafficking. While it is important to address all of the consequences of human trafficking, it is even more critical to institute preventative measures that will affect the continual growth of the demand for further victims of human trafficking. The key to successfully battling human trafficking is through involvement of youth in this process through building awareness, changing perceptions and creating a sense of ownership of this issue.

While EPAWA is only a few months old, it has already begun to make a name for itself in Ghana. EPAWA realized that no anti-human trafficking measures had been instituted two months prior to the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN2008) - a sporting event projected to generate around one million visitors to Ghana. Within a two-week period, EPAWA mobilized the government, IGOs, NGOs and the media by demonstrating that the demand for prostituted women and children substantially increases during an international event. Under the leadership of Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Executive Director, Sammy Jacobs Abbey, winner of the Artists for Human Rights Award, and Moses Kanduri, the African Cup of Nations 2008 Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign was officially launched on December 10, 2007, and was covered by TV stations, all major radio stations and newspapers in Ghana.

EPAWA has also obtained a public commitment from the Ghana Tourism Board to pressure the Ghanaian tourism industry to adopt the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. In addition, EPAWA, in partnership with ILO and Local Organizing Committee for CAN2008 launched a red card against trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation on January 19, 2008. More than 400,000 copies were printed, and are being distributed.

While there is a slowly growing awareness on the issue of trafficking of children for sexual exploitation, the same topic in the context of women has been largely ignored and even normalized in Ghana. EPAWA is working with the media to address this by sensitizing the stakeholders and the general public about the linkages between prostitution of women and that of children, as well as to demonstrate that prostitution of women is sexual exploitation. In fact, the Ghana Journalism Association and its member journalists are working closely with EPAWA to uncover cases of human trafficking and prosecute the traffickers, the pimps and the johns.

The Feminist Coalition Against Prostitution, UK

"For Women, Against Prostitution!"

The aim of the new UK Feminist Coalition Against Prostitution, FCAP, is to create a safe, free to join, grassroots space for women who do not believe prostitution is inevitable or acceptable. It will provide this majority with a voice to counter the vocal pro-prostitution lobby, which is increasingly active in the UK. This UK-wide group is providing a place for women who wish to get active and to work together within a Feminist understanding of prostitution to create a world where nobody is for sale.

FCAP is urging the UK Government, including the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly, to adopt a Swedish-style law to criminalize demand and de-criminalize all those exploited within prostitution. It is calling for all criminal records for loitering and soliciting to be wiped so that survivors of prostitution are no longer barred from employment and branded "sex offenders". In addition, FCAP demands that adequate funds be invested in prostitution exit services such as housing, trauma counseling, health care, benefits, training and education, employment programs, drug rehabilitation, and legal advice. FCAP believes that prostitution is a form of male violence against women. It believes that the majority of British people do not want any woman, child or man in the UK to be bought and sold. It aims to mobilize this majority. More information about FCAP's network can be found on its website at <http://www.fcap.btk.com>

COALITION 

Category II consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

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